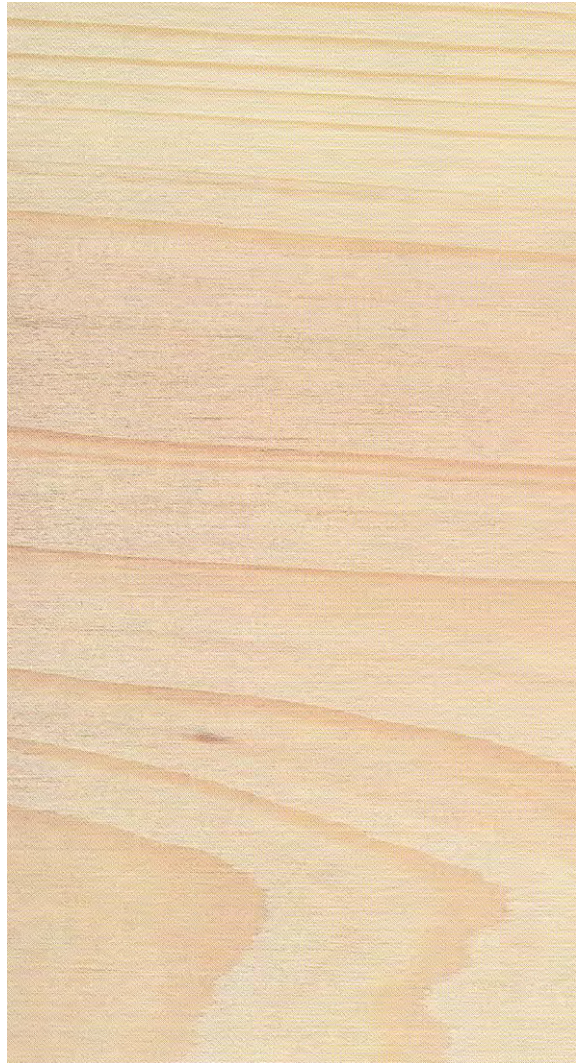
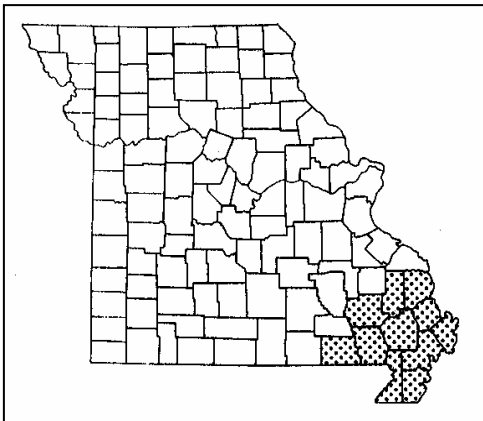


Baldcypress

Taxodium distichum (L.) Rich

Commonly called cypress, southern cypress, red cypress, white or even yellow cypress, this tree grows principally in the southern U.S. on river bottom or wet sites, but finds its way up the Mississippi River into the bootheel of Missouri. The bark is dark reddish brown, divided by long, loose, shreddy ridges. Its hardwood is noted for durability against rot and decay. The color of the heartwood varies widely, ranging from light yellowish brown to dark brownish red, brown or chocolate brown. The sapwood of baldcypress is narrow and nearly white, and not durable against decay. The wood is fairly light in weight and moderately strong, hard and stiff but somewhat difficult to work with tools. Shrinkage is relatively minor, but somewhat greater than that of cedar, and less than that of southern pine. The wood has a slightly oily feeling and may have a rancid odor. Frequently, cypress trees will have pockets or areas attacked by fungus. This wood is called pecky cypress and is popular as paneling. The growth rings are distinct and the wood is moderately easy to dry.

Cypress has been used widely by planing mills for sash, doors, exterior trim, siding and posts, beams and other members in docks, as well as warehouses, bridges and railroad ties. It has also been used for caskets, tanks, boats, railroad car construction, poles, piling, shingles, slack cooperage and fenceposts. It is planted as an ornamental throughout the state and with care, it develops into a large and unusual shade tree. Cypress is a good wood for home workshop use, but its use is restricted by limited range in Missouri and few kilns are able to get cypress logs to saw into lumber.



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